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## Will the Democrats Abandon Their Ancient Faith?

(From the New York Sun.)

The historic position of the Democratic party on the tariff was well stated in the Baltimore platform of 1912 in these sentences:

"We declare it to be a fundamental principle of the Democratic party that the federal government, under the constitution, has no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties except for the purpose of revenue, and we demand

that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of government honestly and economically administered."

The principle has been asserted time and again: "Protection is a robbery of the many to enrich the few," the Democrats said in 1904. In 1908 they welcomed the Republican promise to revise the rates "in tardy recognition of the righteousness of the Democratic position on this question"; in 1910 their cry was for "a tariff for revenue only"; in 1912 they demanded that "all custom house taxation shall be only for revenue"; in 1914 they called for federal taxation that should be "exclusively for public purposes," and should "not exceed the needs of the government, economically administered"; in 1912 it was "a fundamental principle of the Democratic party that the federal government has no constitutional power to impose and collect tariff duties except for the purpose of revenue only." But in the declaration of this subject proposed for insertion in the Democratic platform of 1916 purporting to have President Wilson's approval a new philosophy is apparent, and although the hated word "protection" is avoided, the phrase "fair competition" is used in a manner which leaves no room for doubt that the erection of a tariff barrier against foreign products is contemplated by its author. The draft of this plank is as follows:

"We reaffirm our belief in the doctrine of a tariff for revenue only and unreservedly endorse the Underwood tariff law as truly exemplifying that doctrine. All competitive tariff rates are necessarily subject to change, to meet changing conditions in the world's production and trade. Such changes should be made only after investigation of the conditions at home and abroad by a non-partisan tariff commission, whose findings should be presented to Congress for appropriate action, and the normal conditions of fair competition between American and foreign producers should be maintained by an anti-dumping law, which would keep the tariff rates on a fairly competitive basis in times of surplus production abroad."

The anti-dumping law by which the industries of this country are to be protected against "surplus production abroad" would be designed to "keep the tariff rates on a fairly competitive basis"; that is, the tariff rates would be adjusted to maintain "normal conditions of fair competition between American and foreign producers." This, however, is to use the tariff schedules for protection of American employes and workmen against foreign competition, and not for "revenue only"; it is precisely what the Republicans have done in the past and hope to do in the future. It assumes that the federal government has constitutional power to impose and collect tariff duties for objects other than revenue only. The fact that the rates were adjusted through the operation of a statute called an anti-dumping law and not "an act to reduce tariff duties and to provide revenue for the government, and for other purposes," would not affect the situation in the least.

The tariff plank submitted by President Wilson to the platform makers in St. Louis greets a fundamental principle of the Democratic party very cordially, and very firmly and sincerely consigns it to the dust pile of abandoned theories.



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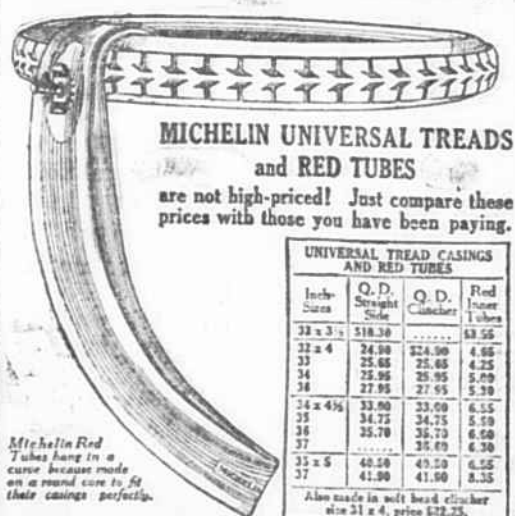
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## West Virginia Briefs

**FAIRMONT:** Linn Merrifield, aged 14, son of W. M. Merrifield, of Watson, was hurled beneath a moving railroad train at the Watson station while playing with other boys and had a leg cut off.

**WESTON:** W. A. Marsh, a track man, was crushed to death beneath a freight car when several cars were thrown from the track on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad near here.

**MORGANTOWN:** At a meeting of the West Virginia University Ravenswood, third baseman, was baseball player, Virgil L. Flinn, of elected captain of the 1917 team. Mr. Flinn led the team in hitting this year, with an average of .367.

**WHEELING:** Matthew Schrack, aged 30, was killed by a Baltimore and Ohio railroad train near his home at McMechen. His sister was killed at almost the same place four years ago.

**MORGANTOWN:** Representatives of all the men's Bible classes in Morgantown have formed an organization with the object of arousing public sentiment in favor of better methods of handling the various city and county charitable institutions and health measures.

**CHARLESTON:** It is unofficially reported from Wyoming county, where a recount of the votes for governor on the Republican ticket is in progress at the instance of Judge Ira E. Robinson, that General Lilly lost four votes and that Jack Mullens, candidate for the state senate in the Sixth district, of which Wyoming is a part, gained four votes, which will be sufficient, it is said, to elect him over Lincoln Adams, who, on the face of returns, had won the nomination by three votes.

**POINT PLEASANT:** Following a gun battle, detectives captured Eastman Alexander, alias "Big East," who is alleged to have murdered Special Agent H. J. Varney, of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. Varney was shot and killed recently on a freight train near Staftons. When the detectives caught up with the negro last night, he attempted to shoot his way to liberty, but was overpowered.

**CHARLESTON:** Noah Lester and Lonko Blankenship, two of twelve Mingo county men indicted in federal court here, have entered pleas of guilty to the charge of violating the election laws during election day in 1914. Judge Keller deferred sentence until the September term of court in Huntington. Bond was fixed at \$2,500 each and was furnished.

**HUNTINGTON:** Attorneys for the faction of the First church of Christian Science that left the mother church and formed a congregation of their own, appeared before Judge Graham in circuit court and succeeded in having the injunction dissolved restraining them from using the name of the first church. The mother church gave notice the case



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cerely consigns it to the dust pile of abandoned theories.

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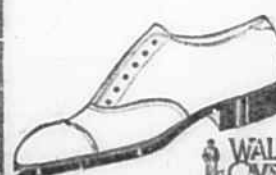
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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCK-HOLDERS OF THE J. E. DOMAN OIL COMPANY.

Stockholders of the J. E. Doman Oil Company: You will please take notice that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the J. E. Doman Oil Company will be held on June 30th, 1916, at 9 o'clock a. m. in the central and business office of the said Company at No. 114 Chapel street, Clarksville, West Va., County of Harrison. This meeting will be for the purpose of electing new officers for the said company and for any other business of the aforesaid Company that might be properly transacted therein.